IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)   :   Walker et al.

Prior Application

Serial No.   :   TBA

Examiner: M. Sager
Group Art Unit: 3304

Filed   :   February 24, 1998

For   :   **DATABASE DRIVEN ONLINE DISTRIBUTED TOURNAMENT SYSTEM**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. [ ]   For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a European Search Report from a counterpart European application noting the relevance of that item is enclosed:

2. [ ]   For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.

3. [X]   Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in the prior application from which this application claims priority, U.S. Serial No.   08/635,576 , filed April 22, 1996 .

4. [X]   No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

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[X]   37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

[ ]   37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application.

[X]   37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits.

5. [ ]   No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.

6. [ ]   A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action):

    [ ]   A check in the amount of $210.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee.

    [ ]   Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

7. [ ]   A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance, whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:

    a.   one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and

    b.   the attached petition requesting consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement; and

    c.   the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

8. [ ]   A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

    a. [ ]   37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue;

    b. [ ]   37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue.

    c. [ ]   The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

9. [ ] I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

[ ] I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

10. [ ] A check in the amount of $130.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1).

[ ] Charge the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

[X] The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. 3178-4034 US1 . A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

11. [ ] Applicant draws the Examiner's attention the following copending U.S. Patent Applications filed by the same Assignee and respectfully requests that the same be considered in connection with the examination of this application:

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 24, 1998

By:_____
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